

This is an official

# CDC Health Advisory

Distributed via Health Alert Network

May 20, 2004, 16:04 EDT (04:04 PM EDT)

## ***Salmonella Enteritidis* outbreak linked to raw almonds**

On May 12, 2004, the Oregon Department of Human Services State Health Division identified five cases of *Salmonella* serotype Enteritidis (SE) infections with isolates having indistinguishable pulsed-field gel electrophoresis (PFGE) patterns. In the five days before illness, all patients had consumed raw almonds produced by Paramount Farms and sold under the Kirkland Signature label through Costco stores. The link between illness and consumption of raw almonds was a statistically significant finding when patients were compared with other persons in the community.

A review of recent SE isolates submitted to PulseNet, the National Molecular Subtyping Network for Foodborne Disease Surveillance, revealed 17 additional isolates from 9 states, for a total of 22 SE isolates with the outbreak-associated PFGE pattern (Alaska 1, Arizona 2, Idaho 2, Massachusetts 1, Michigan 3, Oregon 6, Tennessee 1, Utah 2, Washington 4). Ages of case-patients range from 11 months to 91 years with illness onset dates from June 2003 to April 2004. Of sixteen patients with known medical data, 5 were hospitalized and no one died. SE isolates from 2004 continue to be analyzed and case finding is ongoing.

Of the 18 patients interviewed to date, seventeen give a history of consuming raw almonds within a few days before illness onset. The remaining case is an infant who was likely infected by secondary transmission within the household.

On the evening of May 18, at the request of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), Paramount Farms issued a recall of whole natural raw almonds sold under the Kirkland Signature, Trader Joe's, and Sunkist brands. Recalled raw almonds from the Kirkland Signature brand, available exclusively at Costco Wholesale Inc. and sold in 3-pound bags, have "best before" dates of 8/21/04 through 2/8/05. Recalled almonds from the Trader Joe's and Sunkist brands have "best before" dates of 8/21/04 through 3/15/05. Details regarding the recall can be found at [http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/paramount05\\_04.html](http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/paramount05_04.html). The distribution of these almonds is considered to be nationwide.

Each year approximately 40,000 cases of salmonellosis are reported in the United States. Because many milder cases are not diagnosed or reported, the actual number of infections is much greater. Symptoms of infection with *Salmonella* include diarrhea, abdominal cramps, and fever, usually within 8-72 hours after being exposed. The illness usually lasts 4 to 7 days, and most people recover without antibiotic treatment. The elderly, infants, and those with impaired immune systems are at greater risk for severe infections. *Salmonella* is usually transmitted to patients through the consumption of foods contaminated with animal feces.

Further information on *Salmonella Enteritidis* can be found at:

- CDC Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases:  
[http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salment\\_g.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/salment_g.htm)

## DHEC Contact Information for Reportable Diseases and Reporting Requirements

Reporting of cases is consistent with South Carolina Law requiring the reporting of diseases and conditions to your state or local public health department. (State Law # 44-29-10 and Regulation # 61-20) as per the DHEC 2004 List of Reportable Conditions available at:  
<http://www.scdhec.net/hs/diseasecont/disease.htm>.

Clinicians should report cases to local or state health departments, who will inform the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch at CDC. For questions please contact your state health department or the Foodborne and Diarrheal Diseases Branch, CDC (404) 639-2206.

The following is a complete listing of both local and state numbers for use in reporting **ANY** disease or condition.

Federal HIPAA legislation allows disclosure of protected health information, without consent of the individual, to public health authorities to collect and receive such information for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. (HIPAA 45 CFR §164.512)

## District Public Health Offices

Mail or call reports to the District Epidemiology/Disease Reports office in each district.

### Appalachia I

(Anderson, Oconee)  
220 McGee Road  
Anderson, SC 29625  
Phone: (864) 231-1966  
Fax: (864) 260-5623  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-298-4442

### Appalachia II

(Greenville, Pickens)  
PO Box 2507  
200 University Ridge  
Greenville, SC 29602-2507  
Phone: (864) 282-4139  
Fax: (864) 282-4373  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 460-5355 or  
1-800-993-1186

### Appalachia III

(Cherokee, Spartanburg, Union)  
PO Box 4217  
151 E. Wood Street  
Spartanburg, SC 29305-4217  
Phone: (864) 596-2227 ext. 210  
Fax: (864) 596-3443  
Nights / Weekends: (864) 809-3825

### Catawba

(Chester, Lancaster, York)  
PO Box 817  
1833 Pageland Highway  
Lancaster, SC 29721  
Phone: (803) 283-3175  
Fax: (803) 283-0572  
Nights / Weekends: 1-866-867-3886 or  
1-888-739-0748

### Edisto Savannah

(Aiken, Allendale, Barnwell)  
1680 Richland Avenue, W. Suite 40  
Aiken, SC 29801  
Phone: (803) 642-1618  
Fax: (803) 642-1619  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 827-8668 or  
1-800-614-1519

### Edisto Savannah

(Bamberg, Calhoun, Orangeburg)  
PO Box 1126  
1550 Carolina Avenue  
Orangeburg, SC 29116  
Phone: (803) 533-7199  
Fax: (803) 536-9118  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 954-8513

### Low Country

(Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, Jasper)  
1407 King Street  
Beaufort, SC 29902  
Phone: (843) 525-7603  
Fax: (843) 525-7621  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-712-6586

### Palmetto

(Fairfield, Lexington, Newberry, Richland)  
2000 Hampton Street  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: (803) 576-2749  
Fax: (803) 576-2993  
Nights / Weekends: (803) 304-4252

### Pee Dee

(Chesterfield, Darlington, Dillon,  
Florence, Marlboro, Marion)  
145 E. Cheves Street  
Florence, SC 29506  
Phone: (843) 661-4830  
Fax: (843) 661-4859  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 660-8145

### Trident

(Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester)  
4050 Bridge View Drive, Suite 600  
N. Charleston, SC 29405  
Phone: (843) 746-3832  
Fax: (843) 746-3851  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 219-8470

### Upper Savannah

(Abbeville, Edgefield, Greenwood,  
Laurens, McCormick, Saluda)  
PO Box 3227  
1736 S. Main Street  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
Phone: 1-888-218-5475  
Fax: (864) 942-3690  
Nights / Weekends: 1-800-420-1915

### Waccamaw

(Georgetown, Horry, Williamsburg)  
2830 Oak Street  
Conway, SC 29526-4560  
Phone: (843) 365-3126  
Fax: (843) 365-3153  
Nights / Weekends: (843) 381-6710

### Wateree

(Clarendon, Kershaw, Lee, Sumter)  
PO Box 1628  
105 North Magnolia Street  
Sumter, SC 29150  
Phone: (803) 773-5511  
Fax: (803) 773-6366  
Nights / Weekends: 1-877-831-4647

### Bureau of Disease Control

Acute Disease Epidemiology Division  
1751 Calhoun Street  
Box 101106  
Columbia, SC  
Phone: (803) 898-0861  
Fax: (803) 898-0897  
Nights / Weekends: 1-888-847-0902

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Categories of Health Alert messages:

**Health Alert:** conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

**Health Advisory:** provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

**Health Update:** provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.